Reappraisal of Indian Economy by Internationale Credit Rating Agencies

3929. SHRI R. SURENDER FEDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether international credit rating agencies propose to re-appraise the Indian Economy;

(b) if so, whether any agency has completed the re-assessment; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). As a part of the normal credit rating exErcise several international credit rating agencies continuously monitor the performance of the Indian economy. The outcome of any such recent assessment of our economy has not been communicated to us. However, as indicated in the Economic Survey, 1991-92, the short-term liquidity crisis on India's external sector has been overcome, the country's foreign exchange reserves have registered a substantial improvement, and the international confidence in Indian economy has been restored.

Loan Melas

3930. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans disbursed in each State under "Loan Melas" scheme since the commencement of the scheme and the amount recovered so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal to waive of the loans which are not-recovered under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) For the scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) credit camps may be organised at the village level where the cases of beneficiaries upto the stage of sanction can be finalised. The data reporting system under the scheme does not generate information about the total amount of loans disbursed under such credit camps. The banks can also organise the credit camps of their own in order to provide assistance to weaker sections. As per available data with Reserve Bank of India the percentage of recovery of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) loans in respect of public sector banks was 41. 5 percent as at the end of June 1991.

(b) and (c). The recovery of dues from the borrowers and the amountto be written-off in each case by banks is a part of their normal banking operations and Government does not issue any directive in this regard.

Reimbursement of Medical Bill to Officers of Indian Investment Centre.

3931. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full reimbursement of the medical bill is allowed to the lower, middle and senior level Executive Officers of the Indian Investment Centre;

(b) whether the subordinate staff are CGHS beneficiary; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-

WAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). According to the Indian Investment Centreall classes of emoployees of Indian Investment Centre have the option to either join Central Government Health Scheme or Reimbursement Scheme. The Reimbursement Scheme is subject to an annual ceiling depending upon the category of employee and production of medical bills and prescriptions. At present, 62 employees are covered under Central Government Health Scheme and 48 have opted for Reimbursement Scheme.

Trade Relation with Finland

3932. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve trade reflations with Finland; and

(b) the details of the areas identified for expansion of trade relation with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Bilateral institutions such as an Indo-Finnish joint commission at the official level and a Joint Business Council at the level of industry and business periodically review the development of bilateral trade between India and Finland. Besides. trade promotion measures such as market surveys and exchange of business delegations also facilitate bilateral trade.

Items like industrial machinery, electronic components, computer software, organic chemicals and pharmaceuticals, medicals equipment and forest based goods have been identified as products having potential for expansion of trade between the two countries.

Export of Garments

3933. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian garments has been increasing in several countries;

(b) if so, the achievement made in 1991-92 in export of these garments and the higher target fixed if any, for 19912-93;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the export of garments during 1992-93; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There is an overall increase in export of garments from India. This indicates that the demand for Indian garments in increasing.

(b) The achievement in 1991-92 (April 91- Jan 92) in garment exports is Rs. 4441 crores (Provisional). The target for 1992-93 is yet to be finalised.

(c) and (d). Though specific target for 1992-93 is yet to be finalised, Government have taken several steps to boost export of garments like modernisation of Garment industry by allowing import of garment manufacturing at concessional duty, organising buyer seller meets and participating in fairs, providing adequate encouragement to manufacturer-exporters and non-quota exports through Garment Quota Policy etc.

Indo-maldives Joint Collaboration

3934. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: